

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Minutes - October 21, 2009

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Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m.

Those present were: Dave Engelhardt, BCATS staff; Dale Majerczyk, City of Essexville; Mike Stoner, Bay Metro Transit; Gary Brandt, Monitor Township Supervisor; Terry Spegel, Hampton Township Supervisor; and Dirk Westbury, BCATS staff.

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Stoner, seconded by Spegel, to approve the minutes from the August 19` 2009 meeting. Motion Passed.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Update From Bay Metro Transit:

Stoner gave an update and said that Bay Metro Transit completed the ARRA Grant application and the grant is complete. The projects included a hybrid-diesel retro fit for some buses, the purchase of vans and a backup generator. Bay Metro has also been asked by MDOT to participate as a testing site for mini hybrid engine buses. MDOT is working with the old Fisher Body plant which now manufactures these electric-hybrid buses. Bay Metro would be one of a few testing locations. Stoner is waiting to hear if the funding for the electric-hybrid bus program will go through. He will keep BCATS updated.

New Federal Highway Bill:

Engelhardt discussed the continuing resolution that will last through the end of this month. The money that is available is 70% less than expected with the continuation. However, once the federal government rescinds the rescission, the funding should come back up. MDOT doesn't have sufficient match to utilize all available funds starting 2011 and they are looking at alternatives to match the federal funds so they will not have to return any federal funds.

Public Hearing for BCATS 2035 MTP Amendments:

The Public Hearing was called to order at 1:47 p.m. by Dale Majerczyk, Chairman of BCATS. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss the recommended amendments to the BCATS 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) which include the Public Involvement Plan and the various project updates for the M-84 & I-75 projects. Engelhardt gave everyone an overview of the proposed amendments. The Public Involvement Plan change is to broaden the publications that meetings can be posted in by not specifying one specific local newspaper by using the verbiage "publication of general circulation" and by changing the seven day meeting posting requirement to three days. The project updates for M-84 and I-75 were already approved and added to the Long Range Plan (LRP). The project changes include an update to several projects time lines and cost updates. Discussion ensued.

The Public Hearing on the BCATS 2035 MTP Amendments was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

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The regular BCATS Policy Committee Meeting was reconvened at 1:53 p.m.

Approval of BCATS MTP Amendments:

A motion was made by Spegel, seconded by Brandt, to approve the BCATS 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) amendments for the Public Involvement Plan and the various project updates for M-84 and I-75. Motion Passed.

Public Hearing of BCATS TIP Amendments:

The Public Hearing was called to order at 1:54 p.m. by Dale Majerczyk, Chairman of BCATS. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss the local amendments to the BCATS TIP which include three MDOT amendments (I-75 Reconstruction, I-75 Culvert over Goetz Drain, and the Bay-Zilwaukee Railroad acquisition for Non-Motorized use), an amendment from the Road Commission and an amendment for the City of Essexville's TIGER Grant Project. Engelhardt gave an overview of the proposed amendments and provided handouts detailing the amendments. The three MDOT Amendments are for changes in project dates and funding. A question was raised regarding the use of IM funding for the I-75 projects since it involves the additional travel lane to the roadway. If the projects are not eligible for IM funds, then MDOT will identify what funds they will utilize prior to BCATS sending in the TIP amendments. The Road Commission would like to add their ARRA Rural Task Force Area project, 7 Mile Rd from Hotchkiss to Salzburg Rd, to the TIP. The Road Commission also rescinded their previous request to the BCATS Technical Committee to delete the Mackinaw Road Project, asking that this project remain in the TIP, but with a change in the funding to include a local match. The City of Essexville will not be adding their railroad project on Woodside Avenue which has an application pending for funding by a TIGER Grant to the TIP. Majerczyk explained that the TIGER Funding application has not been determined, so the railroad project would not need to be added to the TIP until such time that funding was available. Engelhardt requested that he be allowed administrative authorization to act to reallocated funds in the TIP with email confirmations from the MPO implementing agencies. Discussion ensued.

The Public Hearing on the BCATS TIP Amendments was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

The regular BCATS Policy Committee Meeting was reconvened at 2:15 p.m.

Approval of BCATS TIP Amendments:

A motion was made by Brandt, seconded by Stoner, to approve the BCATS TIP Amendments as listed above and to allow Dave Engelhardt administrative authority to make funding allocation changes in the TIP when required and confirmed by the MPO implementing agencies via email confirmation for any ARRA or TIGER Grant funded projects. This motion would include last minute funding allocations once bids have been results are received for projects to be let in the Spring of 2010 by the city of Bay City/Bay County Road Commission (Wilder Rd/Truman Parkway) and the city of Essexville (Borton Ave). Motion passed.

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Non-Motorized Update:

Westbury gave an update and told the group that the three day fund raiser for connecting the Bay, Midland and Saginaw trails that took place the September 18th - 20th was successful. He also discussed the Safe Routes to School project that should be open in Spring 2010. Westbury told the group that there was an upcoming Rail Trail resurfacing project.

Project Updates:

The **Borton Avenue Project** application has been submitted and the GI for this project will be done in the next two weeks. There is a February 2010 letting on this project. The **Marquette Ave Connector Project** is underway and will soon have cables run and the sidewalks poured. The **Wilder Road/Truman Parkway Project** which is a City of Bay City and BCRC combined project will have a two week shut down of Truman Parkway and the adjoining Woodside intersection in order to redo the joint repair. The **State Road Project** which was a mill and fill is completed.

Other/New Business:

Enhancement Grants:

Engelhardt heard a presentation by Amber Theylan who administers the Enhancement Grants for the State. They discussed the application process for Enhancement Grants. There is an open application process with project selection occurring quarterly. Engelhardt will get more information from Ms. Theylan. The money for Enhancement Grants in 2010 is all allocated and there is little left for Enhancement Grants in 2011. However, applications can be submitted for Enhancement Grants ahead of time as the application process isn't limited to future years. There is a local match when using Enhancement Grant funds. Enhancement Grants are given for a variety of things including tree planting and the addition of parks/green spaces. Engelhardt encouraged MPOs interested in Enhancement Grants to submit their applications for 2012 money. Once Engelhardt gets more information he will pass it along to BCATS Policy members. Discussion ensued.

As there was no further business, the October 21, 2009 BCATS Policy Committee meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt
BCATS Director

Transcribed by C. Gaul

